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FRANK A. MUNSEY.
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THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1907.

Our Independence Day.

On this day, 131 years ago, the Continental Congress declared a group of separate States independent of their mother country.
The delegates to that Congress did not themselves appreciate the potential fruits of their courage. Many, if not most, of them confidently expected ultimate reunion with the greater nation across the water. But out of their declaration has come the greatest power for general education, individual self-reliance, God-fearing personal character, healthful co-operation for the benefit of good government, and influence for the peace and prosperity of the world which is known to history.
That power is directed here—here in Washington where we live. Yet the anniversary of its beginning passes today without the firing of a single gun, the expression of a single thought, the attempt in whatever formal way to note the day with proper ceremony.

Closing the Wells.

By order of the District Commissioners fifty-five public wells are to be closed. Practically all of them are in neighborhoods of the poor. They are in some cases the chief source of drinking and cooking water. Taking the handles from every pump involved will work inconvenience and dissatisfaction.
Yet no citizen in his senses can hold to disapproval of the Commissioners' decision. All of the sixty-three wells in the city have been pronounced by the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service liable to spread disease, save only three. These three have been excepted from the order. In addition, five more—believed to be not contaminated—are to be kept open, subject to constant watchfulness from the Health Officer, because they are the only sources of water supply for the communities in which they stand.
District water is pure. That from shallow wells is peculiarly likely to be impure. The District of Columbia has long held a disgraceful leadership in disease. The course of good government is to remove every reasonable source of contamination, every possible menace. These fifty-five wells fall within both classes. The Commissioners would have done less than their duty had they permitted them to remain open after they received the report adverse to them from the health service of the National Government.

Another Side of It.

The call to George E. Roberts, for many years director of the mint, to be president of one of the greatest banks in the country, suggests another aspect of this mooted problem of the desirability of the Government service as a career.
Mr. Roberts was a country newspaper man, with a studious mind and a taste for problems of finance. He was a good business man, and a successful politician as well. While still a young man his native business capacity had enabled him to accumulate a comfortable fortune, and it was quite by accident that a public speech which he made before a political club attracted the attention of William McKinley, and resulted in a summons to Mr. Roberts to be director of the mint.
In that position Mr. Roberts soon won notice as one of the country's authorities on financial matters. He has had the courage of his convictions, recently advocating a central bank of issue in a vigorous article in a leading review, despite that such a proposal is unquestionably bad politics at this time. Now Mr. Roberts is summoned to be the head of an institution of international note and power.
This is the other side of the question of Government service. Salaries paid by Uncle Sam are painfully small, both in the rank and file and among the higher executives, especially among the latter. But men who serve the Government well in executive positions enjoy peculiar opportunity for extending their acquaintance and reputation, and

ultimately securing substantial recognition of abilities that in another setting might never be recognized.
The Government service, in recent years has, indeed, been notoriously a training school for executives in great business enterprises. The presidency of a financial establishment has come to be a hereditary of the Secretaryship of the Treasury. The assistant secretaries go forth to positions of such rank and power as in most cases they could never hope to reach by another route. And in other departments of Government service the same rule is only less notably applicable.

Living Up to the Navy.

This country has a navy but no way of effectively taking care of it. There must be prompt and thorough provision of the auxiliary facilities if the investment of more than a billion dollars in the new navy is not to be jeopardized and the country's defense rendered difficult or impossible at some critical time.
Naval officers have been lately making plain to the country how lamentably unsatisfactory are the docking and repair facilities for handling such an armament as we now possess. A more suggestive or instructive elucidation of the gentle art of log-rolling in Congress and of its vicious results, could hardly be found than is contained in the story of how the naval docks at Portsmouth, N. H.; Charleston and Algiers, La., came to be where they are and why they are kept there.
Not one of these constructions is of any practical account to the navy; every one of them is an occasion for waste of money every year. These docks and the establishment which are incident to them ought to have been placed where they will be most useful. Instead they have been placed and kept where they will be most useful to the log-rolling politicians whose constituencies demand evidence of statemanly quality in the form of appropriations to be spent at home. It is no less than a scandal that these things should be; it will be a continuance and progression of that scandal if they are not corrected as soon as possible.
Likewise, with everything now making plain that the Pacific will be the scene of most of our naval operations for years to come, there is absolute need that great expansion of facilities be provided there. Not only must this be done on our own coastline, but the Hawaiian and Philippine groups must be equipped as naval bases of the first order. The next Congress, doubtless, will take up in earnest the work of strengthening our naval establishment at these weak places. The whole country needs to be alert in order to prevent the waste of as much money on the Pacific as has been wasted on the Atlantic coast.
Beyond all this, there is the problem of transports and colliers. Somehow they must be supplied, or provision made for their certain availability in case of war. Men must be enlisted to handle the ships and guns. At present thousands are needed and cannot be secured.
The battleship fleet of the United States is altogether too much "front," and too little back. The ships are equal to any in the world, as are the officers and men. But the establishment is not properly proportioned and well-rounded, and Congress is in large part responsible for the one-sided development that has brought matters to the present lamentable pass.

Good evening; are you shy any considerable number of fingers?
Has the supply of arnica been holding out pretty well?
Now for the mortality statistics.
The Chicago Tribune will step to the front and center with the annual casualty list for the battle of the Fourth of July.
One of the guests at the Fairbanks lunch says they served Manhattan cocktails, but he didn't like 'em; "tasted too much like vanilla." For the first time the real reason for all this row about these cocktails is becoming apparent.
It seems that the War Department is going to have Colonel Ayres retired as unfit to fight, in order that it may avoid the embarrassments of a fight with him.
Mark Twain could almost carry his foolishness to the extent of confirming this story that he is to marry his youthful and petite secretary, and make the public believe it a joke.
The Government is after the Powder trust, the Standard Oil, the Smelter trust, and the express companies. In fact it looks as if the trusts, which keep their own Senators, were likely to be convinced that Senators are a liability rather than an asset.
Mr. Rockefeller on further thought has decided that he will obey the orders of the Federal court at Chicago, though it is mighty annoying to him.
By the time its officials get their hard-luck stories in to the court record, everybody will know that the Oil trust is a beneficent institution, against which the public is unaccountably prejudiced.
King Edward has given Caruso a decoration which will entitle him to write "M. V. O." after his name. This will doubtless please him much better than the "M. H." that has been used lately in the same connection.

**ONE YEAR WITHOUT SUMMER,
WHEN FEET FREEZE IN JUNE
AND SNOW FELL IN AUGUST**

January of 1816 Was Mild, and February, March, and April Were the Same; Then Belated Winter Came.

BUFFALO, N. Y., July 4.—The year 1815 was known throughout the United States and Europe as the coldest ever experienced by any person then living. There are persons in northern New York who have been in the habit of keeping diaries for years, and it is from the pages of an old diary begun in 1810 and kept up unbroken until 1840 that the following information regarding this year without a summer has been taken:
January was so mild that most persons allowed their fires to go out and did not burn wood except for cooking. There were a few cold days, but they were very few. Most of the time the air was warm and springlike. February was not cold. The days were colder than any in January, but the weather was about the same. March, from the 1st to the 6th, was inclined to be windy. It came in like a small lion and went out like a very innocent sheep.
May Air Like Winter.
April came in warm, but as the days grew longer, the air became colder, and by the first of May there was a temperature like that of winter, with plenty of snow and ice. In May the young buds were frozen dead, ice formed half an inch thick on ponds and rivers, corn was killed, and the cornfields were planted again and again, until it became too late to plant corn. By the last of May the climate was as usual in leaf and birds and flowers are plentiful. When the last of May arrived in 1816 everything had been killed by the cold.
June was the coldest month of roses ever experienced in this latitude. Frost and ice were as common as buttercups usually are. Almost every green thing was killed; all fruit was destroyed. Snow fell ten inches deep in Vermont. There was a seven-inch fall in the interior of New York State, and the same in Massachusetts. There were only a few moderately warm days. Everybody looked, longed, and prayed for warm weather, but warm weather did not come.

Wind All Summer.
It was also dry; very little rain fell. All summer long the wind blew steadily from the north in blasts laden with snow and ice. Mothers knit socks of double thickness for their children, and made thick mittens. Planting and shivering were done together, and the farmers who worked out their taxes on the country roads wore overcoats and mittens.
On June 17 there was a heavy fall of snow. A Vermont farmer sent a flock of sheep to pasture on June 18. The morning of the 17th dawned with the thermometer below the freezing point. About 9 o'clock in the morning the owner of the sheep started to look for his flock. Before leaving home he turned to his wife and said, jokingly: "Be sure to start the neighbors; it's the middle of June and I may get lost in the snow."
An hour after he had left home a terrible snowstorm came up. The snow fell thick and fast, and as there was so much wind, the heavy masses piled in great drifts along the windward side of the fences and outbuildings. Night came and the farmer had not been heard of.
His wife became frightened, and alarmed the neighborhood. All the neighbors joined the searching party. On the third day they found him. He was lying in a hollow on the side hill with both feet frozen; he was half covered with snow, but alive. Most of the sheep were lost.
Build Fires to Save Corn.
A farmer near Tewkesbury, Vt., owned a large field of corn. He built fires. Nearly every night he and his men took turns in keeping up the fire and watching that the corn did not freeze. The farmer was rewarded for his tireless labors by having the only crop of corn in the region.
July came in with snow and ice. On the fourth of July, ice as thick as window glass formed throughout New England, New York, and in some parts of the State of Pennsylvania. Indian corn, which, in some parts of the East, had just begun to ripen in May and June, gave up, froze, and died.
To the surprise of everybody, August proved the worst month of all. Almost every green thing in the country and Europe was blasted with frost. Snow fell at Barnet, thirty miles from London, England, on August 20. Newspapers received from England stated that 1816 would be remembered by the existing generation as the year in which there was no summer. Very little corn ripened in New England. There was great privation, and thousands of persons would have perished in this country had it not been for the abundance of fish and wild game.

**Megaphone-Maddened,
Coney's New Police Boss
Says Howls Must Stop**

NEW YORK, July 4.—Capt. James J. Langan, who was in charge of the detective bureau once, and who now is rusticated at Coney Island, stood on the corner of Surf avenue and West Eighth street on Sunday afternoon. Every once in a while the captain's brows would knit and a sickly, pained look would come over his countenance. Some got the impression that the boss cop of Coney Island had yawned and yawned, and who now is rusticated at Coney Island, stood on the corner of Surf avenue and West Eighth street on Sunday afternoon. Every once in a while the captain's brows would knit and a sickly, pained look would come over his countenance. Some got the impression that the boss cop of Coney Island had yawned and yawned, and who now is rusticated at Coney Island, stood on the corner of Surf avenue and West Eighth street on Sunday afternoon. Every once in a while the captain's brows would knit and a sickly, pained look would come over his countenance. 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